

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-44 are pending. Claims 1, 4-7, 10-13, 16-19, 22-25, 27-30, 32-35, 37-40, and 42-44 stand rejected. Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 14, 15, 20, 21, 26, 31, 36, and 41 stand objected to. Claims 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 34, 35, and 44 have been amended. Claims 7-8, 19-20, 30, and 40 have been canceled.

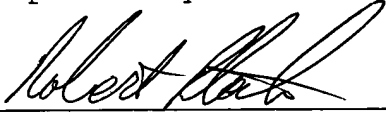
Claim 8 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening dependent claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 8 and the intervening dependent claim 7, thereby effectively rewriting claim 8 in independent form. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitation that the status request message consists of a single message defined according to a protocol associated with the data bus. Therefore, claim 1, and all of the claims that depend from it (i.e., claims 2-6 and 9-11) are allowable as currently presented. Claims 7-8 have been canceled.

The remaining independent claims (i.e., claims 12, 13, 24, 25, 34, 35, and 44) have been amended by including substantially the same limitation as that added to claim 1. These claims, and the claims that depend from them, are therefore allowable for at least the reason stated above with respect to claim 1.

Conclusions

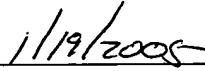
If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for extension of time is otherwise absent, applicant hereby requests any extension of time. Please charge any fees or make any credits, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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